



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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IM on the Radio

By Ian Marquand marquand.im@gmail.com

IM Executive Director Kevin Bruski and Missoula Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Logan were interviewed for Montana Public Radio (MTPR) on Thurs., March 11. MTPR Capitol Reporter Emilie Ritter then produced a story for that evening's "Montana Evening Edition" newscast.

In the story, Kevin spoke of the benefits of the IM system and its status, while Jeff addressed how Missoula's first responders could benefit from the system. IM Outreach and Public Affairs Consultant Ian Marquand tells us that "Emilie did a really nice job of making IM understandable to listeners who probably have never heard of us before. It was a very positive story that hit the right highlights. Kevin and Jeff did a really good job, too, describing the project and its benefits in easy-to-understand terms."

The "Montana Evening Edition" program originates in the studios of KUFM, the public radio affiliate at the University of Montana. The IM story, along with the rest of the March 11 newscast, may be heard on the MTPR website. To listen, go to this address: <http://www.mtpr.net/programs/2010-03-11>. The IM story is a few minutes into the program and lasts about three and a half minutes.

1033 Program to Transfer to the Highway Patrol

By Dan Sullivan dsullivan@mt.gov



PSSB is working with the Montana Highway Patrol (MHP) to transfer the 1033 Program to MHP by the end of June, 2010. The 1033 Program is a federal surplus program, which helps local law enforcement agencies acquire excess equipment from the U.S. Dept. of Defense.

Because local law enforcement agencies frequently use the program, and it deals with weapon procurements and transfers, MHP is a more appropriate state agency for administering the program.

PSSB is busy reviewing and updating more than 100 program files. Moreover, the Memorandum of Agreement between the state and federal government has changed, which necessitates a new agreement between the state and local law enforcement agencies. Sheriffs, police and other law enforcement agencies enrolled in 1033 will receive a revised memorandum in the coming weeks. Also, program contacts will soon be updated through this process.

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If you have any questions about the 1033 program or the proposed transfer to MHP, please contact Dan Sullivan at 406-444-3581 or via e-mail at: dsullivan@mt.gov.

Productive IM Finance Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov



IM Finance Committee members had a productive meeting in Helena on Mon., March 8, reviewing check register, funding source report, the IM budget and the status of several grants. An extension request is being submitted to fund a fall training exercise on the Northern Tier. The committee took action to transfer funds to pay for the Blueprint for Excellence training and to move forward on two Decision/Information Requests (DIRs). One approved portions of DIR 144 for re-allocation of grant monies for communications improvements in Blaine County, while the other approved DIR142 to move the Boulder Hill site higher on the build-out priority list.

The audit committee selected a professional accounting firm to conduct a financial audit of the IM. Kevin Bruski reported that Lewis & Clark County commissioners have received and signed both the MOU and award letter for the microwave monitoring project, which includes an e-mail notification enterprise server that will be housed at the county.

Kerry O'Connell, Funding Sub-Committee Chair, provided a list of questions for which answers are needed for work to proceed on the IM Business Plan. Mark Canton, Motorola, provided a copy of the current radio trunking contract and reported on the IM Technical Committee recommendations for sites and the use of GTR8000 repeaters. Larry Irwin, Montana Highway Patrol (MHP), also reinforced the MHP's partnership role with the IM.

The next IM Finance Committee meeting will be Mon., May 10, beginning at 9:00 am at the offices of Anderson ZurMuehlen, 828 Great Northern Blvd., in Helena.



Educational IM Governance Committee Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

Members of the IM Governance Committee were brought up to date on a number of important issues at their Mon., March 8 meeting. Jennifer Woodstock, DES, gave a presentation on the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Process (HSEEP), which will provide a Northern Tier exercise opportunity later this fall. Cheri Kilby, Bylaws Sub-Committee Chair, gave an update on revisions to the bylaws.

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Bob Murdo, IM Legal Counsel, reported that almost all paperwork is complete on the purchase of XL Heights site. The IRS Form 1024 has been filed so the IM can be recognized as a 501-(C)-4 organization. A State-Tribal Cooperative Agreement has been sent to the Confederated Salish Kootenai tribe for its review. George Gupton, Staffing Sub-Committee Chair, and Kevin Bruski will be reviewing applications and setting up interviews for the Communications System Planner position.

Bill Fleiner confirmed the dates of the Blueprint for Excellence strategic planning session on Wed. & Thurs., April 21 & 22. Invitations will be sent soon. The MACo Interoperability Committee held a positive meeting in Great Falls with several county commissioners and Dick Clark, ITSD CIO, in attendance.

Kerry O'Connell, Funding Sub-Committee Chair, gave an update and sought input on the IM Business Plan. Ian Marquand, Outreach and Public Affairs Consultant, reported on a variety of outreach activities, including a presentation to the Rocky Boy's tribal council, a Guest Editorial distributed to Montana's five largest newspapers, and an upcoming radio interview with Montana Public Radio. Ian also updated the group on a television interview that Joe Brenneman and Wayne Dusterhoff had for the *Face the State* program, which will be aired in April. He also provided copies of the newly produced IM video.

The next IMGC meeting will be Mon., May 10, at the Anderson ZurMuehlen offices, 828 Great Northern Blvd., in Helena.

IM Project Directors Meeting Informative

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov



Kevin Bruski, IM Executive Director, began the IM Project Director's meeting on Tues., March 9 with highlights of several IM accomplishments. He was followed by Dave Hinds, U.S. Air Force (USAF), who reported that 100% of its communications equipment is installed in the Central Consortium and that their new communications system is vastly improved. The USAF is currently working on an updated MOU with the IM, too.

Garrett Fawaz, Dept. of Corrections, and Kyle Hilmer, Policy and Planning Services Bureau-ITSD, gave a presentation on essential financial components of the IM business plan: the IM cost structure and estimated future expenditures. They outlined the research and analysis used in their business planning methodology, and explained estimated cost structures, site planning and build-out schedules, estimated future costs and a revenue forecast. Kerry O'Connell, Funding Sub-Committee Chair, followed with a presentation about the committee's goal of

writing a business plan that can be taken to the legislature. She asked for suggestions on a number of items to ensure that IM decision makers are involved in the process.

Sheriff John Walsh provided an update on the March 8 meeting of the IM Finance Committee and Irene Bushnell, Anderson ZurMuehlen, gave financial updates. A motion was approved to move the Boulder Hill site higher on the priority list and increase the amount of DHS FY2010 funding proposed for the site. A second motion passed to re-allocate funding for dispatch improvements in Blaine County to cover a broader range of needed upgrades and equipment. Bill Fleiner reviewed several IM Governance Committee milestones.

Mark Canton, Motorola, reported that Lewis & Clark County master control site upgrades have been successfully completed, which concludes Phase I of the second master controller work. Phase II of the contract will begin soon as work on the site progresses. Roger Smith, IM Radio System Administrator, gave a status report on Northern Tier fleet mapping, SOP development, microwave connectivity and trunking. Dale Osborne, Encryption Sub-Committee Chair, updated the group on a waiver request to remain on the DES-OFB standard in use now. Members also received an update on the status of the National Guard last-mile microwave hop project. Kevin distributed copies of the Northern Tier 60-Day System Acceptance Agreement with Aviat, formerly Harris-Stratex. The IMPD formally accepted the Motorola Change Order for the IM-12 Contract.

The next IMPD meeting is scheduled for Tues., May 11 at the MACo offices, 2715 Skyway Drive, in Helena.

Upcoming Meetings

- **Wed., March 17**
Funding Sub-Committee
Billings • 1:00 pm
Billings Police Dept. Training Center
4810 Midland Rd.
- **Thurs., March 18**
I-15/90 Corridor Consortium
Butte • 10:00 am, Chamber of Commerce, 1000 George St.
- **Mon., March 22**
IM Technical Committee (IMTC)
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
MACo Large Conf. Rm., Lower Level, 2715 Skyway Dr.
- **Tues., March 23**
State Agency Radio Users Task Force
Helena • 9:00 am - 11:00 pm
Old Livestock Building, 1310 E. Lockey Ave.
- **Wed., March 31**
Mobile Data Terminal Consortium
Bozeman • 10:00 am – noon
Gallatin County EOC, 219 E Tamarack

